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Excise Officers Cite 16 During St. Joseph College Little 500

RENSSELAER, Ind. (April 22) – Indiana State Excise Police officers cited 16 people on 21 charges during Little 500 festivities at St. Joseph College this weekend.

Excise officers focused their efforts on underage drinking and other criminal offenses around St. Joseph College and throughout the Town of Rensselaer.

Of those arrested over the weekend, five juveniles were issued citations. Four were charged with illegal transportation of alcohol and the other for possession of tobacco and other charges. Five minors were arrested for illegal transportation of alcohol, and seven adults were arrested for inducing a minor to possess alcohol.

One man was incarcerated for Operating While Intoxicated. Officers stopped him as he was about to go into an alcohol establishment to continue consuming alcoholic beverages. Excise officers found small bottles of alcohol in his car that he said he intended to sneak into the business.

Inspections of alcohol establishments were conducted with the assistance of Rensselaer Police and Jasper County Sheriff's deputies.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission. Excise officers enforce all state laws, but focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related violations.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.